

Cumberland Co. News
Nov. 6, 2002

County Agriculture Development Board Approves Programs

The County Extension Service has administered activities of the County Ag Development Board as was specified in House Bill 611. The County Ag Development board has allocated the funds to individual programs. Over \$200,000 has been invested in improved forages on local beef and dairy operations, \$100,000 has been put into improving beef herd genetics, \$85,000 was used for improved cattle handling facilities and \$50,000 has been used for ag diversification projects. Over 200 individuals have participated in some part of the program so far.

Master Cattlemen's Program Improves Profits



UK forage specialists conducted training on hay quality at one of the Master Cattlemen sessions held at the High School in Burkessville.

Forty-two beef farmers in Clinton, Cumberland, Russell, and Wayne counties are learning how to make more money by participating in UK's Master Cattlemen Program. Participating producers are taking part in a 10 session program over the course of 5 months designed to cover every aspect of beef production from selecting the right breeding stock to marketing track load lots of feeder calves together.



New facilities are found on many farms now allowing farmers to administer health practices to beef herds.



Kim and Belinda McCoy were two cattle producers from Cumberland County that participated in the Biltmore Study Tour at Ashville, NC this spring. This 3 day program was taught by UK Extension Agents, Specialists, and others from the beef industry to help farmers improve profits.

Alternative Agriculture Attracts New Farmers



Small goat herds are springing up across the county as farmers are diversifying their operations with new enterprises.

Reduced tobacco allotments, aging farmers, and fewer young farmers willing to invest the capital necessary to continue growing tobacco has prompted growing numbers of people to investigate new farm enterprises. \$50,000 allocated by the county ag development board from Phase I funds was used to promote an Ag Diversification Program for county farmers to try new enterprises. Approximately 20 individuals have received up to \$1500 in cost share funding to try shrimp production, blueberries, honey, ginseng, worm farming, goats, sheep, horses, and a number of other viable alternatives to tobacco.